



State of Tennessee  
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 9th Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
615-741-7956

**CERTIFICATE OF RESTORATION  
OF VOTING RIGHTS  
for Persons Convicted of a Felony After May 18, 1981**

TO BE COMPLETED BY AN AGENT OF THE PARDONING AUTHORITY, AN AGENT OR OFFICER OF THE INCARCERATING AUTHORITY, OR A PROBATION/PAROLE OFFICER OR AGENT OF THE SUPERVISING AUTHORITY.

1. I hereby certify that the following information is true and correct:

- a. Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)
- b. Applicant's County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Felony Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Month/Day/Year of Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_ TOMIS ID: (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ f. Soc. Sec. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

2. On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)

- ☐ The above individual received a pardon which contained no special conditions pertaining to the right of suffrage. A copy of said pardon is attached hereto; or
- ☐ The maximum sentence imposed for such infamous crime has been served by the above individual; or
- ☐ The maximum sentence imposed for such infamous crime has expired; or
- ☐ The above individual has been granted final release from incarceration or supervision by the Board of Probation/Parole, the Department of Correction, or county correction authorities.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

3. I hereby certify that the following is true and correct: (check one)

- ☐ The court did not order the above individual to pay any restitution as part of his or her sentence; or
- ☐ All of the restitution ordered by the court as a part of the sentence for the above individual has been paid.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

4. I hereby certify that the following is true and correct: (check one)

- ☐ The court did not order the above individual to pay any court cost as part of his or her sentence; or
- ☐ All court cost assessed against the above individual has been paid; or
- ☐ The court has made a finding at an evidentiary hearing that the above individual is indigent at the time of application.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Restoration of Voting Rights

Tennessee law allows most individuals to restore their voting rights through a relatively simple process. Current law requires one to no longer be under the supervision of the pardon, parole or probation system, to have paid all restitution, if any was ordered, and to be current on all child support obligations.

## 1. What is the process for restoring one's voting rights? **TWO OPTIONS:**

### A. Court Order:

1. The person must obtain a court order in either the county in which the person currently resides or the county in which the person was convicted.
2. The person must submit an original certified copy of the court order to the county election commission office in which they wish to register.
3. The administrator of elections submits the certified court order to the Coordinator of Elections' office by fax. The county election commission office must have a certified copy of the order and keep the original certified copy of the order in their files.
4. Once the Coordinator of Elections determines eligibility, the Coordinator will send a letter of eligibility or a letter of rejection to the administrator of elections.
5. The administrator of elections will process the person's voter registration application accordingly.
6. A court order restores one's full citizenship rights and can always be used to restore one's voting rights.
7. A court order must be obtained if the person wants to seek and hold public office.

### B. Certificate of Restoration (COR)

1. The felon must have the proper authority complete the Certificate of Restoration form. The COR must be completed in full in order to be submitted to the Coordinator of Elections office.
2. The felon must submit the original completed Certificate of Restoration form to the county election commission office in which they wish to register.
3. The administrator of elections submits the Certificate of Restoration form by fax to the Coordinator of Elections. The county election commission office keeps the original COR form.
4. Once the Coordinator of Elections determines eligibility, the Coordinator will send a letter of eligibility or a letter of rejection to the administrator of elections.
5. The administrator will process the person's voter registration application accordingly.
6. This form only restores one's voting rights. One must obtain a court order to seek or hold public office.

## 2. Who may have their rights restored? It depends on the date of the conviction and the crime in which the individual was convicted.

# KEY DATES IN THE RESTORATION PROCESS

## Conviction Prior to January 15, 1973

If the court found the person infamous for any of the following crimes, the person **lost** their right to vote during this period of time for:

- Abusing a female child;
- Arson and felonious burning;
- Bigamy;
- Bribery;
- Burglary; felonious breaking and entering a dwelling house; felonious breaking into a business house, outhouse other than a dwelling house; larceny; horse stealing; robbery; receiving stolen property; stealing bills of exchange or other valuable papers;
- Destroying a will;
- Incest; rape; sodomy; buggery; or
- Perjury; subornation of perjury.

## Conviction Between January 15, 1973, and May 17, 1981

Individuals convicted between these dates **did not lose** their right to vote. Therefore, the person does not have to complete the voter restoration process. Your office will need documentation from the convicting court or agent who keeps these records showing the conviction date.

## Conviction Between July 1, 1986, and June 30, 1996

If convicted of any of the following crimes, the individual is **ineligible** to have their rights **restored**:

- First degree murder
- Aggravated rape
- Treason
- Voter fraud

## Conviction Between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 2006

If convicted of any of the following crimes, the individual is **ineligible** to have their rights **restored**:

- Murder
- Rape
- Treason
- Voter fraud

## Conviction On or After July 1, 2006

If convicted of any of the following crimes, the individual is **ineligible** to have their rights **restored**:

- Any degree of murder or rape, treason, voter fraud or any felony offense under TCA Title 39, Chapter 16, parts 1, 4, or 5; or any sexual offense under TCA § 40-39-202(17) or any violent sexual offense under TCA § 4039-202(25) designated as a felony and where the victim of such offense was a minor

# GETTING YOUR RIGHTS RESTORED

The following is the process one must complete in order to have their voting rights restored. To seek or hold public office, one must have their citizenship rights restored by a court.

1. Obtain a Certificate of Restoration (COR) form or petition the court in which the conviction occurred or the court in which the person resides.
2. If a Court Order is obtained, submit a Certified Copy of the Court Order to your local county election commission office.
3. If a Certificate of Restoration is obtained, have the authorized agent(s) complete Sections 1 thru 4.
4. Once the COR is complete, submit the original COR to your local county election commission office.
5. Your local county election commission office will forward the submitted documentation to the Coordinator of Elections' office for approval.
6. Once the local county election commission office receives approval from the Coordinator of Elections, the applicant will be notified and may submit a Voter Registration Application.
7. The local county election commission office will review the voter registration application and if the applicant is eligible to register to vote, the application will be processed and the voter will receive a voter registration card in the mail.

Your voting rights cannot be restored if you have outstanding restitution, court costs or child support obligations.

- A. If the person was convicted after May 18, 1981, of any felony, they will need to have their voting rights restored through the certificate of restoration, a court order or have received a pardon.

1. EXCEPTIONS:

- a. If the person was convicted of first degree murder, aggravated rape, treason or voter fraud, between July 1, 1986, and June 30, 1996, they may never have their rights restored in Tennessee.
  - b. If the person was convicted of murder, rape, treason or voter fraud, between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 2006, they may never have their rights restored in Tennessee.
  - c. If the person was convicted of any of the above, or any degree of murder, rape or felony offense under TCA Title 39, Chapter 16, parts 1, 4, or 5 or any sexual offense under TCA Section 40-39-202 (17) or any violent sexual offense under TCA Section 40-39-202 (25) designated as a felony and the victim was a minor, they may never have their rights restored in Tennessee.
- B. If the person was convicted between January 15, 1973, and May 17, 1981, of any felony, they did not lose their right to vote.
- C. If the person was found infamous of the following crimes before January 15, 1973, they must obtain a court order. A certificate of restoration will not be sufficient. If their crime is not on the list, they did not lose their voting rights.
- a. CRIMES: abuse of a female child; arson and felonious burning; bigamy; bribery; burglary; felonious breaking and entering a dwelling house; felonious breaking into a business house, outhouse other than a dwelling house; larceny; horse stealing; robbery; receiving stolen property; stealing bills of exchange or other valuable papers; destroying a will; incest; rape; sodomy; buggery; or perjury; subornation of perjury

3. **Out-of-State Convictions:** Persons convicted of a felony outside of Tennessee must follow Tennessee law for voter registration purposes.

- A. If the person has not had voting rights restored in the state where convicted, the person must have Tennessee's certificate of voting rights restoration completed by the appropriate authorities in the state where convicted.
- B. If the person has had his or her voting rights restored pursuant to the laws of the state where convicted, then the person must still have the appropriate authorities of the state where convicted verify and confirm that he or she has either paid any restitution owed, or that the court did not order restitution as a part of the sentence. A letter containing the above information on the letterhead of the appropriate authority in the convicting state can be used.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Instructions to the Agent Completing the Certificate of Restoration:

*In order to complete any section of this form, the agent must have access to the information being attested to on this form.*

1. In **BOX #1**, the proper authority/agent must provide the requested applicant information.

NOTE: For 1c, list the crime(s) for which the person was convicted.

For 1d, list the date the person was convicted for the crime listed in 1c.

2. In **BOX #2**, the proper authority/agent must provide the following information:

- a) Provide the date that corresponds to the box that is checked
- b) Check the appropriate box indicating how the applicant completed their sentence
- c) Provide your signature (print name below signature) and contact information

3. In **BOX #3**, the proper authority/agent must provide the following information:

- a) Check the appropriate box as it relates to any restitution that was or was not assessed to the applicant.
- b) Provide your signature (print name below signature) and contact information.

4. In **BOX #4**, the proper authority/agent must provide the following information:

- a) Check the appropriate box as it relates to any court fines that were assessed to the applicant.
- b) Provide your signature (print name below signature) and contact information.

### Persons convicted of any of the following, cannot have his or her voting rights restored:

- Between July 1, 1986, and June 30, 1996 - first degree murder, aggravated rape, treason, or voter fraud
- Between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 2006 - murder, rape, treason, or voter fraud
- On or after July 1, 2006 – Any of the above, or any degree of murder or rape or any felony offense under TCA Title 39, Chapter 16, parts 1, 4, or 5; or any sexual offense under TCA § 40-39-202(17) or any violent sexual offense under TCA § 40-39-202(25) designated as a felony and where the victim of such offense was a minor

### Instructions to the Applicant Seeking to have His or Her Voting Rights Restored:

- After completion, the original form must be filed with the local county election commission office in the county the applicant desires to register to vote.

#### NOTICE

A person is not eligible to apply for a voter registration card and have their voting rights restored unless the person is current in all child support obligations. Before restoring the voting rights of an applicant, the Coordinator of Elections will verify with the Department of Human Services that the applicant does not have any outstanding child support payments or arrearages.